AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 - 8.   (Cancelled)

9.   (Currently Amended) A computing machine comprising:

a RAM and a mass memory;

an operating system stored in the mass memory, the mass memory including a partition, said partition being read-only accessible to the operating system, and containing a startup function and an automatic repair function, wherein for every startup of the computing machine, and after a power-on self test, the startup function calls the automatic repair function, the automatic repair function calls the a mounting function and, if an error is detected during the mounting function, the automatic repair function automatically calls the startup function.

10.   (Previously Presented) A computing machine according to claim 9, wherein said startup function comprises a first code sequence that loads contents of the partition into the RAM and a second code sequence that activates said automatic repair function in the RAM.

11.   (Previously Presented) A computing machine according to claim 10, wherein said automatic repair function comprises a third code sequence that calls said

mounting function, the mounting function executable in RAM with write capability in at

least one other partition of the mass memory.

12. (Previously Presented) A computing machine according to claim 11,

wherein said automatic repair function comprises a fourth code sequence that

acknowledges an error indicated by said mounting function and a fifth code sequence

that restarts the computing machine after an acknowledgement of the error.

13. (Previously Presented) A computing machine according to claim 12,

wherein said partition contains a standard acknowledgement function and in that the

fourth code sequence calls said standard acknowledgement function executable in RAM

with write capability in at least one other partition of the mass memory.

14. (Previous Presented) A computing machine according to claim 9,

wherein the mass memory is a hard disk.

15. (Original) A computing machine according to claim 9, further including a

switch for resetting the RAM and restarting the machine.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically starting a computing

machine having a RAM and a mass memory, the mass memory having an operating

system stored therein, comprising:

starting operation of the machine by means of a signal after a power-on self test;

loading into the RAM contents of a partition of the mass memory;

mounting an operating system from the RAM that includes an automatic

repair function, the mounting of the operating system based on a call from the automatic

repair function; and

acknowledging any error indicated in mounting the operating system and

reactivating the loading of the contents of the partition of the mass memory.

17.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16, further

comprising:

creating partitions in the mass memory; and

storing at least part of the operating system and functions for executing a startup,

the automatic repair function that is capable of calling a mounting function and an

acknowledgment function in a first partition,

wherein said first partition is read-only accessible to said operating system.

18.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the automatic

repair function acknowledges one or more errors detected during the mounting of the

operating system.

19.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the automatic

repair function calls a standard acknowledgement function that attempts to repair the

error utilizing only data in the mass memory.

20.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the automatic

repair function comprises:

an instruction sequence that is capable of calling the mounting function;

an instruction sequence that is capable of calling a standard acknowledgement

function; and

an instruction sequence that is capable of calling the startup function upon return

of the standard acknowledgement function.